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January 1972

The Following is for [REDACTED]

#B
SALT 25X1

1. Mr. Nitze has asked some general questions about the flexibility of photographic coverage schedules and the degree to which they are or can be adjusted to meet specific collection needs, leading up to the particular question of whether we will be able to acquire extensive coverage of SALT-limited forces at the time agreements go into force. (While such time has not been decided, it could well be upon signature during President's Moscow visit in May.)

2. Have provided an oral description of the way COMIREX and NRO work together on scheduling needs, mentioned past adjustments in schedules to meet crisis monitoring requirements, and assured him that those involved have SALT considerations very much in mind. Have also described available systems, pointing out the advantages [REDACTED] but also recognizing [REDACTED] the problems we have been having with it. Have informed him that we have options in use of [REDACTED] or even [REDACTED]

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3. At Mr. Nitze's request, this message is intended to flag for you the potential need for coverage at time SALT agreements enter into force,

[REDACTED] to elicit any further comments on this subject you may desire agency advisors to pass along to delegates at this time.

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21 January 1972

For Mr. Stoertz

FLEXIBILITY OF PHOTO SATELLITE COVERAGE FOR SALT

Reference:

1. It is correct to assure Mr. Nitze that there is close awareness in COMIREX and the NRO of specialized SALT needs and every effort is being made in both collection guidance and satellite operations to provide as comprehensive photographic base-line coverage as possible.

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